



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

June 17, 1998

Kent E. Walter, Area Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
San Juan Resource Area  
P.O. Box 7  
Monticello, Utah 84535

Re: Acceptance of Notice of Intention to Commence Small Mining Operations, Larry Hixon, Neighbor Mine, S/037/0106 (UTU-74613), San Juan County, Utah

Dear Mr. Walter:

Thank you for forwarding the Notice for Larry Hixon/Slickrock Mining's, Neighbor Mine located in SE 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 25, T31S, R24E, SLBM, San Juan County, Utah. Your agency's designated number for this project is UTU-74613. The Notice submission included a Division form MR-SMO, a narrative description of the plan of operations, a photocopied topographic map, a BLM compliance inspection memo, and a site map prepared by the BLM.

The Division has evaluated the above mentioned Notice under the Small Mining Operation section of our Rules. The information provided in the notice does satisfy the requirements of Rule R647-3 of the 1988 Division of Oil, Gas and Mining Minerals Rules, and Title 40-8, et seq., of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act of 1975. No additional information is required from the operator by the Division at this time.

According to our MOU it is understood that your office, acting as lead agency, would forward this information to the operator. We have received a copy of your June 12, 1998 acceptance letter to the operator; therefore, in the interest of time, we have sent Mr. Hixon a copy of this letter.

This notice includes a request for a variance from the topsoil replacement requirement. Justification given for this variance is that the entire project site has been previously disturbed by mining activities and no topsoil was salvaged by those previous operations. This site was jointly inspected by BLM and Division staff on 5/7/98. Based on that site inspection, the Division will grant a variance which will not require the operator to replace topsoil in previously disturbed areas which are reimpacted by this project. Undisturbed areas which are impacted by this project will require topsoil salvage and replacement.

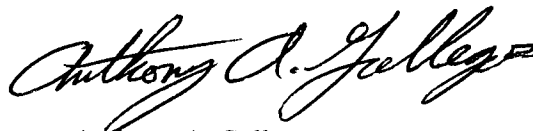
Due to the lack of topsoil available for reclamation it is unlikely that the mine operator could achieve a revegetation success rate of 70% vegetative cover on these previously disturbed areas which

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are reimpacted. The Division will therefore also grant a variance to the 70% vegetative cover standard for those same previously disturbed areas which are reimpacted by this project. The revegetative success standard shall be based on the vegetation surviving three growing seasons, minimizing erosion, stabilizing the site, and also meeting the approval of the BLM. Undisturbed areas which require topsoil salvage and replacement are not granted a variance from the revegetation success standard.

If you receive additional information or amendments for this operation, please notify us so we can update our files. Please reference our designated file number S/037/0106 when forwarding additional information on this project to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony A. Gallegos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anthony A. Gallegos  
Senior Reclamation Specialist

jb  
cc: Roger L. Bon, UGS  
Larry Hixon, Slickrock Mining  
Tracking File  
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